

Coin Board News

For Collectors of Antique Coin Boards

Number 57 — Winter 2021



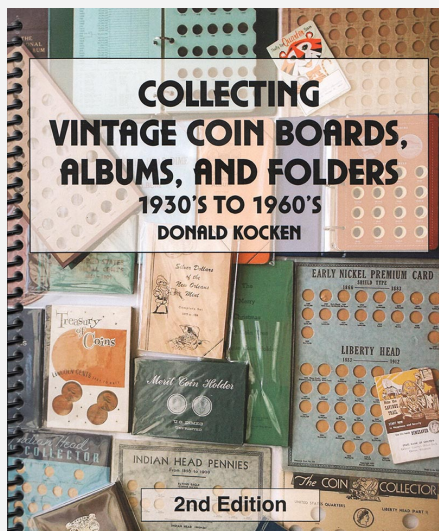
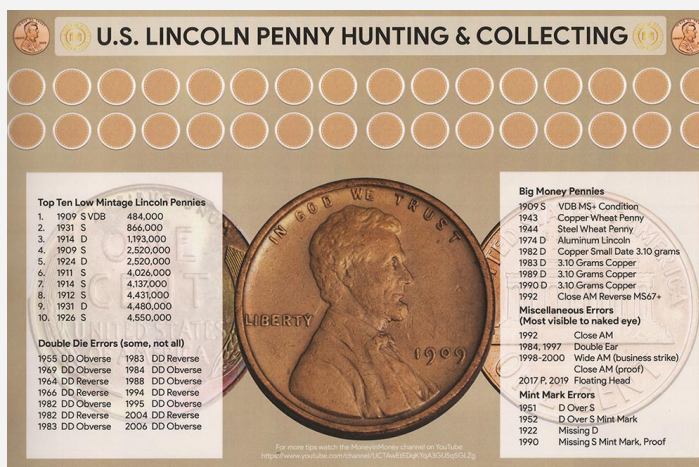
Annual Update Issue

A YEAR OF MINIMAL CHANGE Yes, 2020 was a year in which we were all too distracted with a pandemic and a similarly diseased presidential election to generate much action in the coin board hobby. As a result there was just a single update to my board book for the entire year, and that was reported in *CBN* 56. There were, however, a number of new varieties and a few corrections to my three coin album books, and all four update documents are enclosed with this issue.

MARKET ACTIVITY There was little of note this past quarter, as the coin board hobby seemingly has joined much of our society in quarantine. Most of the offerings have been common boards that were/are overpriced or simply unattractive. The sole exceptions are a pair of Oberwise boards for Shield/Liberty Head Nickels and Buffalo Nickels that are quite nice but loaded up with coins that push their BIN prices a bit high for board seekers.

An interesting new entry, while it doesn't quite meet our definition of a coin board, is a line of laminated coin sorting mats. They've been appearing in YouTube videos that feature the hopeful poster sorting through large quantities of coins for "keepers." I bought a couple of these mats just for reference, and one is illustrated at right.

(The mat image is cropped a bit, as its width exceeds the size of my scanner.)



NEW EDITION OF KOCKEN BOOK Fellow collector Donald Kocken has published a new and expanded edition of his book *Collecting Vintage Coin Boards, Albums, and Folders: 1930's to 1960's*. It's a fun and well illustrated introduction to the many such products that were produced during the hobby's golden age. In addition to actual coin collecting holders, the book features a look at bank "dime savers" and holiday coin gift cards. There's even a charming poem by Don's daughter describing the adventure of his hobby. This 74-page book is \$21.40 postpaid and may be ordered directly from Don at DKMK424@gmail.com or by calling 920-337-6509.

MORE ABOUT NORMAN H. BROCK Last month I featured a coin board vendor stamp and several wooden nickels put out by this San Antonio coin dealer, and I promised to have more about him this time. Norman Howard Brock was born October 12, 1908 in Milwaukee. He was a college graduate, married to Laurine Nummy (1913-82). Brock died May 25, 1991, but his death notice didn't appear in *The Numismatist* for another 15 years. This happens more often than one would expect, as paid life members often continue receiving the magazine until someone finally notifies the ANA of his or her passing.

From the volume of his advertising during the 1930s-40s Brock must have operated a rather prosperous business. We know from his wooden nickels that his shop was relocated a few times, so I pulled out my collection of American Numismatic Association Membership Directories. The earliest address I have is 413 Avenue E in San Antonio during 1935. In 1940 his address was 108 Broadway, and he listed his specialty as U. S. Commemorative Halves; in 1948 he was at 317 Navarre Street; in 1951 at 1608 W. Huisache; in 1957 at 134 W. Commerce Street (as seen on several woods). He was still at that address in the 1964 directory. This was the last edition published by the ANA to include members' addresses, as it quickly became known as the "burglars' guide to locating marks."

Brock joined the ANA in January, 1935 as member 4789, and his earliest advertisement in *The Numismatist* appeared that May. He was then a player in the red hot speculation in commemoratives that dominated the hobby during 1935-36. His last ads appeared in 1948, but he remained active at least into the 1960s. Tucked into some publication I acquired in my search for coin dealer literature was the flyer illustrated (below, left), which features what may have been his home address. This fact, combined with his very low selling prices, dates it to the 1930s. Note that 1926-D and 1928-D are the only Liberty Standing Quarters available Uncirculated at the time. These two issues were largely withheld from release until the mid 1930s, at which time every Mid-Western dealer seemed to have them in quantity. To this day they remain far more available than their mintages suggest.

LIBERTY STANDING QUARTERS							
	GOOD	VERY GOOD	FINE	VERY FINE	EX. FINE	ABT UNC	UNC
No Stars							
1917 "	.35	.40	.50	.65	.90	1.25	
1917 "D"	.35	.45	.65	.95	1.75	3.00	5.00
1917 "S"	.40	.50	.70	.95	1.75	-	-
With Stars							
1917 "	.40	.55	.75	-	-	-	-
1917 "D"	.50	.75	1.00	1.75	2.50	4.00	5.50
1917 "S"	.45	.65	.95	1.75	-	-	-
1918 "	.40	.60	.80	-	-	-	-
1918 "D"	.40	.60	.75	1.50	2.50	-	-
1918 "S"	.40	.60	.70	-	-	-	-
1919 "	.40	.60	.75	1.25	2.50	3.50	-
1919 "D"	.45	.95	1.50	2.50	-	-	-
1919 "S"	.75	1.25	2.00	3.00	-	7.50	-
1920 "	.35	.45	.55	.95	-	2.50	-
1920 "D"	.50	.75	.95	1.50	-	2.50	-
1920 "S"	.40	.50	.75	1.25	2.00	3.50	-
1921 "	-	-	-	7.50	-	-	-
1922 "	.40	.60	-	-	-	-	-
1923 "S"	.95	1.50	-	-	-	-	-
1924 "	.40	.60	.75	1.25	-	-	-
1924 "D"	.40	.50	.65	1.00	-	-	-
1924 "S"	.50	.65	1.00	1.75	-	-	-
1926 "D"	-	-	-	-	.35	.45	.65
1927 "S"	-	-	-	.65	-	-	-
1928 "D"	-	-	-	-	.35	.45	.65
1928 "S"	-	-	.40	.75	-	-	-
1929 "D"	-	-	-	.35	.50	.60	-
1929 "S"	-	.40	-	-	.60	-	-
1928 "S" VG 50¢; 1927 "S" VF 65¢; 1930 VF 40¢; 1930 "S" ExF 50¢;							
1918 "S" OVER 1917. Good, \$9.50							
1918 "D" Die break across date (I have both type 1 and type 2 of this break) V.F. \$10.00; Fine \$7.50; V.G. \$5.00; Good \$2.50.							
Have two types of die breaks across date of the 1924 "D".							
Unc 1929-D Dime .25 (roll \$7.50) (100-\$14.00)							
Unc 1934-D Dime .20 (roll \$6.50) (100-\$12.50)							
Orders over \$1.00 postpaid and insured.							
NORMAN H. BROCK							
1814 W. Kings Hwy. San Antonio, Texas							

Norman H. Brock flyer 1930s

BLOOD MONEY

Well, fellows, may I say my little swan-song-speech and confession and get it over with? I know that you collectors feel that many dealers have forgotten how to be nice and have been kicking collectors around in general, and blaming it on the shortage of help, etc. Also you are shocked by the number of little dealers (such as I) who have been starving to death for years—and now have become "Full Page Big Shots" because of the War boom.

Frankly, I'm ashamed of my part in it. Rather than bragging about my success, I want to dig a hole and crawl in. The volume of coin business has nearly reached that of the Commemorative boom days. BUT, every dollar of it is BLOOD MONEY, and while our boys die we sit back here and profit on easy dollars.

I'm realizing it more and more because I have a little hole-in-wall retail store here in San Antonio where we have a great hospital for the returning boys. They come in my store with an arm or leg shot off or an eye gone. I can't help feeling they gave so much, and I—made a thousand bucks. My conscience is getting the best of me—I'm quitting for the duration.

This little confession is made for two reasons:

1st. To let my customers know how much I really have enjoyed doing business for the past 13 years with each and every one of you. I sincerely look forward to a pleasant resumption of our dealings after Victory is won.

2nd. Something for you other dealers to think about. Lot of us have really become "High-Hat" during this boom—and it can cause hard feeling that will take years to mend. Let's remember all this "Good times" didn't happen because you and I were smart—a lot of guys are paying for it in BLOOD. How about all of us turning over a new leaf and becoming a little meek and understanding for the duration?

I plan to keep the retail store open on a part time basis, and will buy merchandise for "Tomorrow." Will therefore appreciate your offerings of anything you have for sale, IF YOU PUT YOUR PRICE ON THEM. Would also like any dealer's retail or wholesale list and auction catalogues.

I still have in stock about \$20,000.00 face value uncirculated in rolls on which I am paying interest, and should sell. All persons on my mailing list will receive an offering on these shortly.

Again—many thanks for your patience and patronage.

Until later,
NORMAN H. BROCK
(4F—Sec. 8)

317 Navarro Street
San Antonio 5, Texas

Brock Manifesto April, 1945

The war years of 1942-45 were good ones for coin dealers, with prices rising quite rapidly. Hobbies thrived at a time when Americans were making a lot of overtime pay and had no consumer goods to spend it on, due to rationing. That this prosperity occurred at a time when many others were sacrificing their youth to military service disturbed Brock enough to submit a full-page ad (above, right) to the April 1945 issue of *The Numismatist* berating his fellow dealers for their exploitation. A remarkable document, it is reproduced here to show something of the man and to illustrate that America was not quite as united at that time as nostalgia would lead us to believe.

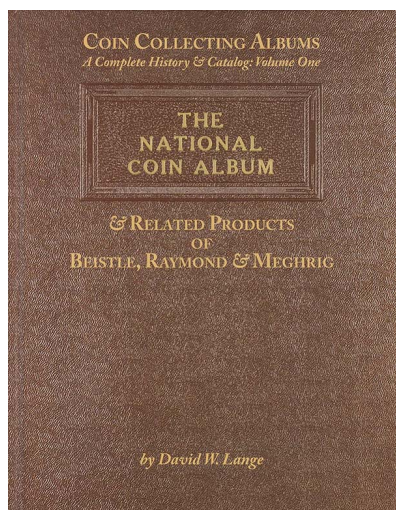
LURING IN NEWBIES Those of you who follow my eBay store may have noticed that I recently listed about 20 coin boards for sale. These are mostly common boards in slightly better than average condition which I can sell at prices that may attract first-time buyers of coin boards, that being my intent. As it turns out, the first sales were to established mailing list customers, but I'm still hopeful of growing our hobby for the future.

THREE PEAS IN A POD I recently participated in a podcast conducted by Jeff Starck and Chris Bullfinch of *Coin World*. The subject was the collecting of coin boards, folders and albums, with an emphasis on my recently published book about Whitman Publishing Company's history and product lines. My segment begins at the 30-minute mark and may be found here: https://www.coinworld.com/news/us-coins/cwpod_ep076. If that link doesn't work, just go to coinworld.com and look up Podcast Number 76 from September 8, 2020.

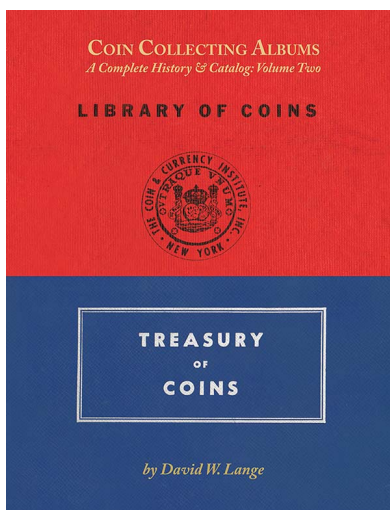
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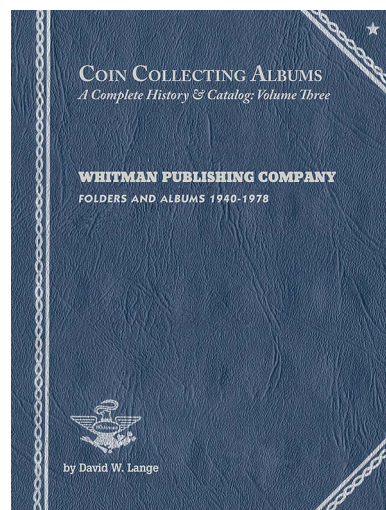
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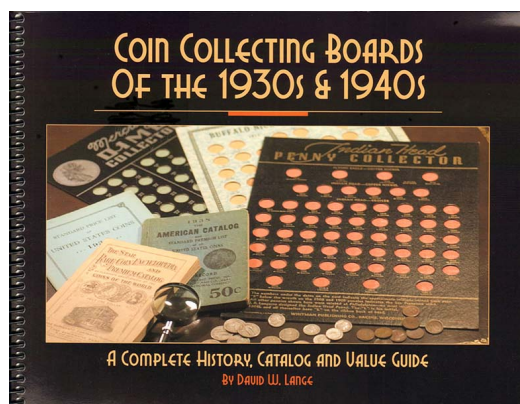


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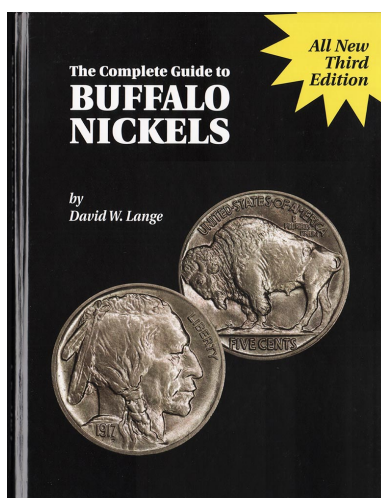
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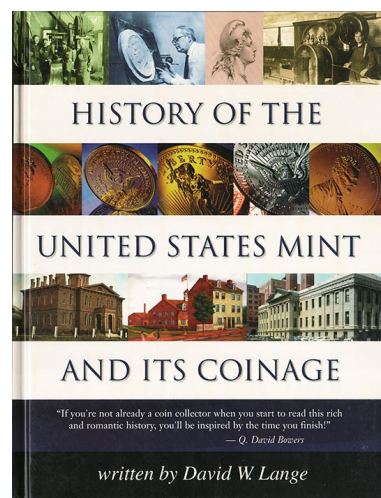


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